

## Meeting with Dodoma Agricultural Seed Producers Association (DASPA)-Dodoma Hotel 13-01-20

### Members present

- Mr Aithan Chaura – Director for DASPA
- Mr Peter Ngowi
- Mr Simon Wabwire-Student SUA
- Mr Wills Munthali

### Agenda

Plan for possible collaboration

#### 1.0. Project briefs

- 1.1. A briefing was provided to Mr Chaura to set basis for discussions. The briefing centered on the research and development activities being conducted through the Africa RISING Project and included 1) Project objective, 2) ICRISAT involvement in the project, the roles and technologies, 3) the project set up including partners involved and their respective roles, 4) status of the project, from evaluation or technology development to release and or scale up.
- 1.2. The brief also provided why there is need to work with partners. Since new varieties could be on the shelf shortly, there will be need for more players in the value chain to ensure or support scaling of these materials. At the same time, project scale out initiatives like the community seed banks also need partners to take an active role in their operations. That partners would also leverage on skills imparted on these farmers.
- 1.3. That the meeting was convened for the two parties to map possible avenues for collaboration and or set platform for further engagement

#### 2.0. Presentation by DASPA

- 2.1. **Background:** The Association has its base in Dodoma and actively commenced operations in 2014 in which their initial benefit was seed from ARI-Hombolo which was then working on Striga resistant sorghum varieties (Hakika and Wahi). Since the project ended, the Association has been buying seed from ARI-Ilonga. DASPA has also been involved in groundnut seed multiplication. Initial seed came from ARI-Naliendele for demonstrations but this was multiplied in one place and then distributed to farmers. Groundnut varieties included; Mnanje 09, Mangaka 09 and Naliendele 09.
- 2.2. **Core functions:** Include; seed multiplication which is then sold to producers who are then linked to markets (DASPA doesn't have enough capacity for now to buy back), seed support to vulnerable groups. DASPA also picks up new technologies (seeds) to scale and links producers to buyers.
- 2.3. **Set up:** DASPA produces seed from nuclear farms that serves communities and growers. The Association has 19 farmer groups with a total of 200 farmers. It also serves about 5 medium scale producers. Medium scale groups have purposely been picked to also help the Association in advocacy activities
- 2.4. **Current operations:** The Association is currently working in Chamwino, Mlali-Kongwa, Izava-Kiteto and Bahi-Dodoma with the main farm about 14km from Dodoma city. In this season, the Association has; 20 acres of Sorghum (Wahi and Macia) and 15 acres of groundnut (Mnanje 09, Mangaka 09 and Naliendele 09)

- 2.5. **Quality control:** The Director of DASPA is a trained seed inspector and a former employee of TOSCI now retired. He is actively involved in the quality control, building capacity to producers but official certification is still done by TOSCI
- 2.6. **DASPA Partnership:** Work with a number of Institutions that include: ARI-Hombolo, ARI-Naliendele and ARI-Ilonga for technologies and TOSCI for seed certification. DASPA also sees a future partnership with Tanzania Organic Agriculture Movement (TOAM) an institution that advocates organically produced crops who have already bought sorghum and groundnut from DASPA.
- 2.7. **Initial leverage:** There was a project run by Action AID which worked with farmers in the said villages. The project had farmer groups and built various capacities including seed production. When the project phased out, DASPA took over the farmer groups.
- 2.8. **Current plans:** To drill a borehole for irrigation to support seed production especially groundnut.
- 2.9. **Contact:** The Director; Mr Aithan Chaura; +255754314758
- 3.0. **Expectations:** From the discussions, DASPA would need 1) support in terms of seed for the new varieties even to the smallest quantities that they would multiply and channel it into their two approaches (Individual growers who buy-this supports operations of the association and farmer groups who are just supported to produce and sell amongst themselves for now) and 2) formal introduction to the farmer groups for the community seed banks that we have created through the project
- 4.0. **Collaboration:** DASPA is ready and looking forward towards working with the project or ICRISAT
- 5.0. **ICRISAT:** Contacts were shared in case of further enquiries
- 6.0. **Remnant seed:** Remnant seed of pigeon pea and groundnut (Mnanje) from planting, was shared with DASPA. Details on this will follow